(b) the steps proposed to be taken to improve the quality of Mobile cellphone services in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. the services in Srinagar (Garhwal) area only are facing disruption due to prolonged State Power supply breakdowns and failure of OFC media due to road widening work being carried out by Border Road authorities.

(b) Various steps, like provision of additional Engine Alternators as Power back up and prompt preventive/corrective action to restore OFC media breakdown, are being taken to improve the quality of Mobile cellphone services in the State.

Telephone facilities in North-Eastern Region (NER)

433. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in North-Eastern Region where telephone facilities have not been provided so far, district-wise/State-wise;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number of villages where the aforesaid facilities proposed to be provided in North-Eastern Region during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) 15,170 villages in North Eastern Region are without telecom facilities as on 01.04.2003. District-wise/State-wise details are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) Permission to commission WLL system in NER could not be given by Government earlier due to security reasons. Permission was accorded in last week of August 2002. In the meantime part of WLL equipment was diverted to other needy circles. About 5439 VPTs to be provided on statellite could not be provided as the tender for the same was cancelled.

(c) All the 15,172 uncovered villages in NER are proposed to be provided with telecom facilities during the current financial year subject to the availability by WLL equipment in time and funds for satellite VPTs.

Statement

District-wise uncovered villages

Sl. No.	State	Name of District	No. of uncovered villages
1	Assam	Barpetha	360
		Bongaigaon	199
		Cachar	60
		Darrang	375
		Dhemaji	841
		Dhubri	417
		Dibrugarh	365
		Golpara	345
		Golaghat	5
		Iiailakandi	1
		Jorhat	40
		Kamrup	147
		Karbianglong	1634
		Karimganj	85
		Kokrajhar	443
		Morigaon	0
		N.C. Hills	269
		N. Lakhimpur	266
		Nagaon	52
		Nalbari	249
		Sibsagar	144
		Sonitpur	134
		Tinsukia	229
			6660

Sl. No.	State	Name of District	No. of uncovered villages
2	Meghalaya	East Garo Hills	709
		East Khasi Hills	442
		Jaintia Hills	169
		Ri-Bhai	209
		South Garo Hills	517
		West Garo Hills	973
		West Khasi Hills	547
3	Mizoram	Aizawl	4
		Champhai	17
		Kolasib	0
		Serchip	7
		Mamit	5
		Saiha	17
		Longtalai	35
		Lunglei	18
4	Tripura	Dhalai	2
		North Tripura	37
		South Tripura	61
		West Tripura	14
			3783
5	Arunachal Pradesh	Changlong	205
		Dibang Valley	137
		East Kameng	235
		East Siang	90
		Lohit	309
		Lower Subansir	560
		Papumpare	102
		Tawang	110
		Tirap	106
		Upper Siang	65

Sl. No.	State	Name of District	No. of uncovered villages
		Upper Subansir	305
		West Kameng	129
		West Siang	321
6	Manipur	Bishenpur	14
		Chandel	248
		Churachandpur	445
		Imphal East	79
		Imphal West	45
		Senapati	406
		Temenglang	157
		Thoubal	51
		Ukrul	194
7	Nagaland	Dimapur	1
		Kohima	17
		M"chung	0
		Mon	29
		Phek	45
		Tuensang	163
		Wokha	58
		Zuhnboto	50
			4676
8	West Bengal (Sikkim)	Sikkim East	4
		Sikkim West	9
		Sikkim South	18
		Sikkim North	22
			53
	GRAND TOTAL:		15172